

Date of Notice: November 26, 2021

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE-MAKING**

In accordance with the R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-35, as amended, as amended, the Department of Human Services (DHS) hereby proposes to amend the following DHS rules:

**RICR Title 218 – Rhode Island Department of Human Services
Chapter 70 – Office of Child Care Licensing
Part 1 – Child Care Center and School Age Program Regulations for Licensure**

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, the Department is proposing rule-making to amend the Child Care Center and School Age Program Regulations for Licensure. Effective November 26, 2021 the Department proposes the following changes:

- §1.5(B)-Added definition of "stable groups"
- §1.8(O)-Added Pandemic Language

In the development of these rules, consideration was given to the following: (1) alternative approaches; and (2) overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions. No alternative approach or duplication or overlap was identified based upon available information.

These proposed rules are accessible on the DHS website (<http://www.dhs.ri.gov>), the RI Secretary of State website (<http://sos.ri.gov/ProposedRules/>), and available in hard copy upon request (401-462-2018 or RI Relay, dial 711). **A public hearing will be held to consider the proposed amendments on Thursday, December 9, 2021 from 5:00pm-6:00pm at the Louis Pasteur Building, 25 Howard Avenue, Bldg. 57, Cranston, RI 02920, in the West Wing Conference Room.** Persons wishing to testify may do so by signing up at the hearing or by submitting written testimony no later than 11:59 on December 26, 2021 to Tara Borges, Office of Policy Development, Department of Human Services, Louis Pasteur Building, 25 Howard Avenue, Bldg. 57, Cranston, RI 02920.

The seating capacity of the West Wing Conference Room will be enforced and therefore the number of persons participating in the hearing may be limited at any given time by the hearing officer, in order to comply with safety and fire codes.

The Louis Pasteur Building is accessible to the handicapped. Individuals with hearing impairments may request an interpreter's presence by calling 711 or Relay RI 1-800-745-6575 (Voice) and 1-800-745-5555 (TDD). Requests for this service must be made at least 72 hours in advance of the Hearing date. The Department of Human Services does not discriminate against individuals based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, religious belief, political belief or handicap in acceptance for or provision of services or employment in its programs or activities.